

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /050 W
----- 088624

R 281208Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4530

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 6753

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, LE
SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 120558

1. I AM MORE THAN A LITTLE PUZZLED BY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S
REPLY (REFTEL) TO BEIRUT 6308, CONCERNING THE TIMING

AND

THE VENUE OF THE FORTHCOMING AIR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IN A NOTE OF JANUARY 6 (BEIRUT 00181), THE GOL FORMALLY
PROPOSED BEGINNING CONSULTATIONS IN BEIRUT AT SOME SUITABLE
TIME DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975.

3. ON FEBRUARY 3 WE FORMALLY REPLIED (IN ACCORDANCE WITH
OMSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE 021634) THAT "WHILE
THE
U.S., RECOGNIZES THE DESIRABILITY OF CONSULTATIONS IN
ADVANCE OF AGREED DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1975, THE U.S.
WAS UNABLE TO MEET EARLIER THAN LATE SPRING OR EARLY
SUMMER". NO OBJECTION WAS MADE TO BEIRUT AS THE VENUE
IN OUR FORMAL REPLY AND IT COULD BE RATIONALLY ASSUMED
THEREFORE THAT THE PROPOSED VENUE WAS ACCEPTABLE.

4. REPLYING IN TURN TO OUR REPLY, FIRST INFORMALLY
ON APRIL 7 (BEIRUT 4436) AND THEN FORMALLY ON MAY 17
(BEIRUT 6308), THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES ACCEPTED OUR
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PROPOSAL, CALLING FOR A DATE IN JUNE OR JULY, I.E.,

LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER, AS WE
SUGGESTED. RATHER
THAN CONCURRING WITH THIS, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOW INSTRUCTED
TO INFORM THE GOL THAT WE WANT TO MEET ON SEPTEMBER 2,
AND NOT IN BEIRUT, BUT IN WASHINGTON.

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE
GOING TO BE DIFFICULT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. TO RENEGE
NOW ON WHAT THE LEBANESE WOULD CONSIDER A COMMITMENT RE
TIME AND VENUE DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THE HEIGHT OF WISDOM.

WE STONGLY RECOMMEND THEREFORE
THAT WE GIVE THE LEBANESE
WHAT THEY REQUESTED RE A FIRM DATE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS IN BEIRUT IN JULY. IF THE DEPARTMENT INSISTS
ON REQUESTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD IN WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 2, THE LEBANESE, NOT TO MENTION OURSELVES, ARE
ENTITLED TO A FULL EXPLANATION AS TO WHY WE MUST CHANGE
OUR POSITION AT THIS LATE DATE.

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